

The Intellectual Property Office has some concerns with regard to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills proposals to repeal the Pedlars Acts in the UK.

The Intellectual Property Office is an executive agency of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills and is the official government body responsible for granting Intellectual Property (IP) rights in the United Kingdom.

The legislation relating to Pedlars may well be over 130 years old, but the rationale for licensing street traders still has some relevance. Under the terms of the Act, a person trading on the street must seek a certificate. This was considered to be an effective method of controlling persons offering goods for sale for immediate delivery

Police and Trading Standards are able to examine and seize goods being offered for sale. As well as a useful means of controlling the incidence of street trading, in particular where counterfeit goods are being sold, there are the issues of the persons' identification, which will be challenging without a licensing method.

If the Pedlar Acts are repealed then the options available to Trading Standards looking to keep illegal and often potentially dangerous goods from being sold to consumers is reduced, their job will become more difficult and tackling counterfeit good could be more time consuming. As a result, there is a chance we will see an increase number of counterfeit goods being sold in the UK.

I would be grateful if you could consider this potentially significant impact when deciding the Government's response to this consultation.

I understand you are planning to hold some seminars to consult with those affected, particularly Local Authorities, as requested I attach contact details for lead Trading Standards officials in the areas you mentioned.

Copyright and Enforcement Directorate

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